

Limekiln State Park



Our Mission

The mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.



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P. O. Box 942896

Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

For information call: (800) 777-0369

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Discover the many states of California.™

Limekiln State Park

63025 Highway 1

Big Sur, CA 93920

(831) 667-2403

*“At dawn, Big Sur’s
majesty is almost painful
to behold. That same
prehistoric look, the look
of always, Nature smiling at
herself in the mirror
of eternity...”*

*-Henry Miller, Big Sur and the
Oranges of Hieronymus Bosch*



“**F****rom the Redwoods to the Sea”**

aply describes the unique topography of Limekiln State Park. This gem of a park 52 miles south of Carmel adjoins the Ventana Wilderness area of the Los Padres National Forest. On the legendary Big Sur coastline where the Santa Lucia Mountains meet the Pacific, the 716-acre park offers peaceful solitude, a breathtaking waterfall, and seascapes of the Monterey Bay National Marine

*Steep coastal slopes*

Sanctuary. Watch wildlife from the beach or along fern-lined trails and picnic among the redwoods. Deep within their forest sanctuary along the west fork of Limekiln Creek tower the four enormous kilns from which the creek takes its name.

The summer climate at this sparsely populated segment of the central coast is typically mild. Morning fog in the summer usually burns off before midday. Temperatures vary from about 50 to 75 degrees. Other seasons can vary from one extreme to another on the same day, so dressing in layers is recommended.

NATIVE PEOPLE

Archaeological evidence suggests that the ancestors of today’s Salinan, Esselen and Ohlone people inhabited the Big Sur coast for thousands of years, adapting their lifeways to the area’s climatic and

environmental changes. Native groups traveled from the coast to the interior valleys, following the marine and terrestrial resources that sustained them. They gathered fish, shellfish and various grasses and seeds, and hunted small and large game and birds. They traded with other groups for items they could not produce themselves.

The incursion of the Spanish, Mexicans and

Americans brought changes that drastically affected the lives of the people. Taken into the mission system, the people struggled with diseases to which they had no immunity. Pestilence, violence and broken promises all took their toll; seemingly well-intentioned treaties with the Indians were not sent to federal offices for ratification. Within a few generations the native people’s traditional lands had been taken over by the settlers.

At the end of the mission era some of the native people were employed in agriculture, fishing and other industries. Today descendants of the Salinan, Esselen and Ohlone people are working together

to revive their cultural traditions, and to pass them on to the next generations.

NATURAL HISTORY

The park is located in the geologically young (about 2-1/2 million years) Santa Lucia Range, which runs from Monterey southeast to San Luis Obispo. Because its geography creates numerous microclimates, the park is one of the few places on earth where fog-loving redwoods thrive not far from drought-tolerant yucca. Young redwoods, oaks, sycamores and maples flourish in the canyons; chaparral and scrub are found at higher elevations. Poison oak is a natural part of the ecosystem.

WILDLIFE

Limekiln Creek’s year-round water supply provides excellent habitat for diverse animals, including mountain lions, bobcats, squirrels, deer, foxes, raccoons and ring-tailed cats. Offshore, sea otters play in kelp beds, and female gray whales with calves migrate north in early spring. The varied terrain is home to more than 200 bird species, including seabirds such as

pelicans and gulls and shorebirds such as willets, oystercatchers and sandpipers.

Some rare and endangered birds, including California condors and peregrine falcons, glide above the canyons.

*Limekiln Creek*

THE LIME KILNS

Beginning in 1887, the Rockland Lime and Lumber Company extracted, processed and exported thousands of barrels of lime from Limekiln Canyon. Four stone and iron furnaces were built at the base of a large talus slope eroding from a limestone deposit. Limestone rocks were loaded into the kilns, where very hot wood fires burned for long periods to purify lime.

The lime was packed into barrels, hauled by wagon to Rockland Landing on the coast and loaded onto ships that carried it to northern ports for use in concrete.

After only three years, the limestone deposit was all but depleted, as was the redwood forest that had been nearly clear-cut to use for lumber and fuel.

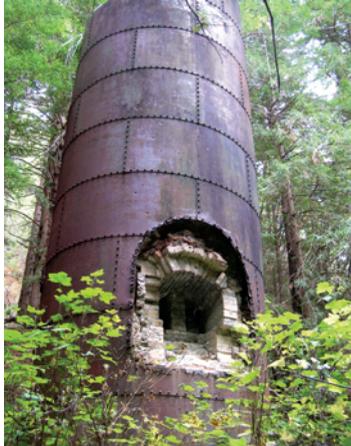
Today the four kilns, some stone walls and bridge abutments are the only remains of the thriving lime industry that existed here.

DAY USE

Hiking

Hare Creek Trail—Along the left side of Hare Canyon Creek, take an easy walk through the redwoods and sorrel. Relax for a while beside the cool, fern-edged pool at trail's end.

Limekiln Trail—An easy half-mile walk leads you across three scenic bridges to the enormous furnaces that once supplied lime used for mortar in San Francisco's earliest



Lime kilns

brick buildings. The rippling sounds of the creek and rustling breezes through redwoods provide a peaceful retreat.

Falls Trail—Hike along Limekiln Creek to the beautiful 100-foot waterfall.

The vision of this fan-shaped fall is worth getting your feet wet.

Picnicking

Most of the picnic tables, located in campsites, are usually occupied. A short walk from the parking lot will reveal many picnic spots without tables at the beach or in the redwood groves.

Fishing

Rough surf conditions can discourage fishing from the beach. Stream fishing is prohibited in the park most of the year.

Anglers over the age of 16 must have valid California fishing licenses.

Camping

Thirty-one developed campsites sit among the trees near Limekiln Creek. Eleven ocean-view sites on the beach are perfect for watching the sun go down and listening to sea birds wheeling over the rolling surf. Hot pay showers are nearby. Reservations are highly recommended for this popular campground.

PLEASE REMEMBER

- **DANGER:** Coastal cliffs and the walls of Limekiln Canyon are steep and unstable. **DO NOT CLIMB.**
- **WARNING:** Use extreme caution near the ocean;

unexpectedly high waves and strong currents can surprise you.

- Closest pay phone is 2 miles away in Lucia; cell phone reception is unavailable.
- Recreational vehicles over 24 feet cannot maneuver in the park. Maximum trailer length is 15 feet.
- The entry gate at Highway One is locked at sunset; no entry or exit is permitted until 8 a.m. the next day.
- Dogs must be kept on a 6-foot leash at all times, and are not permitted on trails.
- Fires are permitted only in provided fire rings. Do not gather dead or down wood. An on-site kiosk sells firewood, or campers may bring their own.
- Gasoline and propane are not available on-site.
- Natural and cultural features are protected by state law and may not be removed or altered.
- Firearms and hunting are prohibited on State Parks lands.
- Please help us preserve the natural features of the park by staying on trails.

- **POISON OAK:** Poison oak can cause an irritating rash. Avoid poison oak by staying on trails and in designated campground areas. If unsure, ask for help identifying poison oak.



Poison Oak



Limekiln Falls

Historic Lime Kilns

ROBERT P. & NANCY J. KING FOUNDATION GROVE

J.C.R.D. HARRIS FAMILY GROVE

PAULINA JUNE & GEORGE POLLAK GROVE

PATSY SEARS & HUGH ROBERTS FAMILY MEM. GROVE

DOBSON & TUCKER GROVE

to Lucia, 2 miles
Carmel, 52 miles

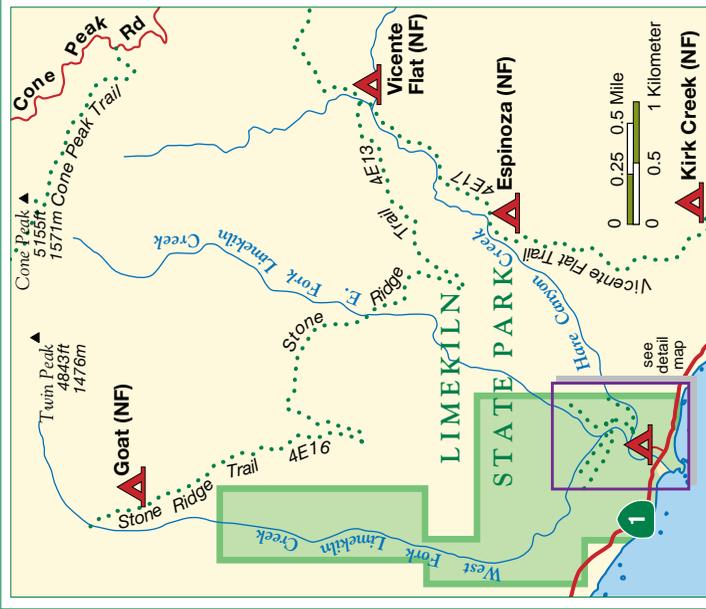
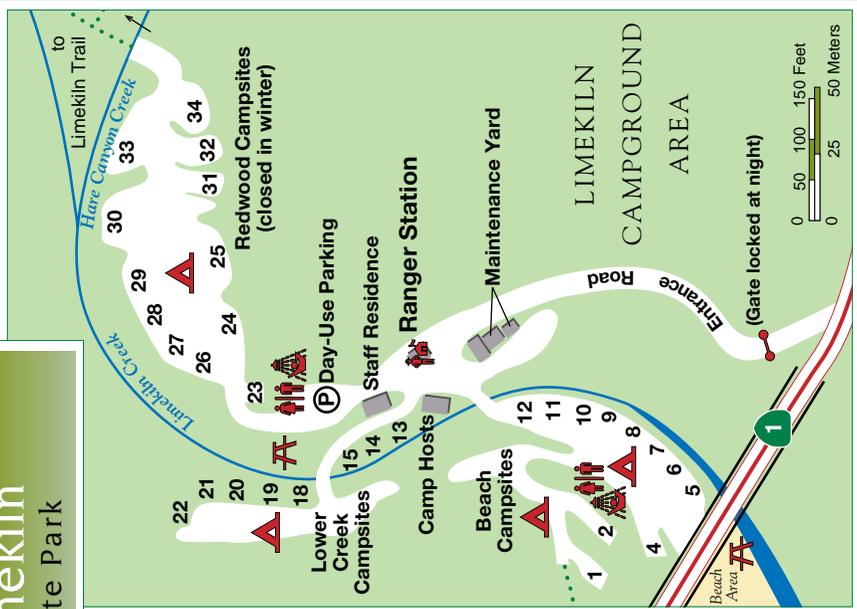
Limekiln State Park

LIMEKILN STATE PARK

see detail map at right

see detail map at right

to Gorda, 10 miles
Cambria, 43 miles



Legend

	Highway		Gate
	Paved road		Lime Kilns
	Unpaved Trail		National Forest
	Accessible Feature		Parking
	Bridge		Picnic Area
	Building		Ranger Station
	Campground		Restrooms
	Campsites		Showers
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